Boards have examined the matter of grant of Interim Rates of Wages to all employees in the newspaper industry and submitted their recommendation to the Government. The Government has notified the grant of interim rates of wages to journalists and other newspaper employees and newsagency employees at the rate of 30% of the basic wage with effect from 8th January, 2008 *vide* notifications S.O. No. 2524 (E) and S.O. No. 2525 (E) dated 24th October, 2008.

(c) The Government has appointed one independent member Shri K.M. Sahni as full time Member Secretary of the Wage Boards. He was appointed prior to the notification of the Wage Boards to get them operationalised. He has been receiving salary from the date of appointment. A post of Assessor besides others has been created for the functioning of the Wage Boards Secretariat. However, the post of Assessor has not been filled up on regular basis till date.

(d) The Chairman has tendered his resignation with effect from 31.07.2008, no specific reason has been mentioned.

(e) Representations were received from various quarters wherein the procedure to be followed for drafting and approval of the minutes etc. was raised. These have been dealt with and replied to.

Safety and security at construction sites

362. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the media reports that deaths at construction sites are increasing in the country;

(b) whether Government has issued any guidelines to private and public construction majors on the safety and security at construction sites; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to regulate the employment and conditions of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures. The Act has to be implemented by State and Central Government depending upon appropriate Government as per Section 2(a) of the Act. The Central Government has framed Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules 1998 which contains provisions and specifications for adequate safety and health of workers employed in the construction industry.

Inclusion of more families under NREG project

363. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: